(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Government of Maharashtra had requested for supply of 50,000 tonnes of wheat under Employment Guarantee Scheme for relief works.

(b) Matter is under correspondence with the State Government.

Purchasing of Wheat by Roller Mills

3865. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra have requested the Union Government to permit the roller flour mills to purchase 'A' and 'B' varieties of wheat; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTTR OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H K L BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the delicensing of roller flour milling industry in July, 1986 the Central Government have no obligation to supply wheat to the RFMs, who are now free to obtain their requirement of wheat from any source including the FCI, subject to availability.

Ban on Sale of 'CEL PHOS'

3866. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Cel Phos' is being manufactured in India;

(b) if so, what are the modes of its sale and distribution;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of serious accidental and suicidal deaths due to consumption of 'Cel Phos' have been registered in various hospitals of the country;

(d) if reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by Government to check the recurrence of such deaths in future,

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is no antidote for 'Cel Phos' poisoning; and

(f) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of banning distribution and sale of 'Cel Phos' in view of its serious effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) 'Cel Phos' is one of the trade names of an insecticide known as Aluminium phosphide and is manufactured in India

(b) The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 has imposed restricions on the sale and use of Aluminium phosphide. The Aluminium phosphide can only be sold to the Government/ Government Undertakings/Organisations like Warehousing Corporations/ Food Corporation of India, etc. and the said insecticide is to be used strictly under the supervision of the Government experts or by Pest Control operators whose expertise has been approved by the Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India.

(c) No specific information about deaths due to consumption of 'Cel Phos' has come to the notice However, the available information about suicidal/Accidental deaths due to ingestion of Aluminium phosphide is given hereunder:—

(i) During 1983, 35 suicidal death cases were reported from

Rajasthan by the Medical College and Hospital authorities of Udaipur.

(ii) One accidental death occurred due to ingestion of Aluminium phosphide in Kurukshetra District (Haryana).

(d) The Registration Committee constituted under the insecticides Act, 1968, has already taken action by restricting the sale and use of Aluminium phosphide keeping in view the risk benefit ratio as mentioned in reply to part (b) of the Question

(e) According to known information no antidote of Aluminium phosphide is available so far.

(f) Aluminium phosphide is an essential fumigant for the control of insectpests of foodgrains. The Government has already imposed desired restrictions on the sale and use of Aluminium phosphide, as mentioned in reply to part (b) of the Question

New Thrust in Housing Programme

3857. SHRI SAGAR RAYKA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently given any new thrust in the Housing Programmes, if so, what is the provision of loans in urban areas as well as rural areas;

(b) whether the Central Government have taken any special programme to construct houses for slums in the major cities in the international year of shelter for Homeless and what are these cities; and

(c) whether it is fact that there is spurt of slum dwellers in major cities like Delhi Bombay, Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Madras if so, what steps are under taken by Government to mitigate the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Keeping in view the complexities of the housing problem and to give a new thrust a comprehensive National Housing policy expounding the objectives, priorities and strategies for promoting a sustained development of housing is in the process of formulation A National Housing Bank is being set up to make available easy access of finance in the housing sector.

(b) Housing and Urban Development are State subjects and the State Govts /U.T Admns have been given full powers to implement all the Social Housing Schemes keeping in view their requirements and plan priorities. Since the problem of slums is related to managements of urban land and planned economic growth which are State subjects, appropriate schemes are formulated and implemented only by the State Govts. The Central Govt provides guidelines and formulates various schemes to assist the State Govts. in their efforts. The emphasis has gradually shifted from a policy of slum clearance to that of environmental improvement of urban slums

(c) Yes, Sir. Point No. 15 of the 20-Point Programme has been designated as the National Demonstration Project under IYSH for the improvement of slums Funds are made available to the State Govts. for improving the environmental conditions in urban slums by providing basic infrastructure such as electricity roads street-light, etc.

Rise in the prices of pulses

3868. SHRI J P GOYAL: Will the minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has some buffer stock of pulses;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;